

MINES AND MINING

SUNBEAM MINE
RICH IN GOLD

Custer County Pioneer Says It Will Make Biggest Gold Producer in State of Idaho.

WHITE NOB, LOST PACKER
NEED OF RAILROAD FROM MACKAY TO LOON CREEK REGION.

"I confidently believe that the biggest gold mine in the state of Idaho will be developed from the Sunbeam group at Custer," said W. C. Sweet of Custer to the Pocatello Tribune the other day.

"The Sunbeam is a wonder. It shows a ledge 175 feet wide, carrying an average value clear across of close to \$3 per ton. Breaks occur which yield as high as \$5,000 per ton. The ore is absolutely pure and the property is a marvel of richness. Fifty men are employed at the mine at present, and the output is about \$1,000 per day. Some of these days the Sunbeam will produce \$5,000 worth of gold. A deal is being negotiated for a consolidation of a large number of contiguous claims, then this is accomplished, a big stamp mill will be installed and the product will be big enough to satisfy the dreams of a Midas."

White Knob May Resume.

Mr. Sweet, who is one of the pioneers of Custer county, was one of the first and most successful leaders of the White Knob mine at Mackay. From the Copper Bullion claim of the Empire company's group he produced \$5,000 worth of ore in a little less than seven months.

Speaking of the prospects for an early resumption of operation at the White Knob, Mr. Sweet said that Frank Leiland, general manager of the company, and one of the most capable mine operators in the west, was in Mackay the other day, arranging to reopen the property and start the smelter. The company has been waiting for a raise in the price of copper, and when it reaches 15 cents the mine will start in full blast. This will mean a payroll of about \$25,000 per month for Mackay.

Need of Railroad.

"Talk about the need of a railroad from Mackay on into the upper camps, let me tell you something that is of more interest," said Mr. Sweet. "It is a fact not generally known, but a most interesting fact nevertheless, that the ore used in freight from Mackay to the Lost Packer mine, a distance of 120 miles, just light enough to mean in the way of tonnage both ways—supplies in and matte out. The Lost Packer is operating a 10-ton tonnage at its property, employing fifty men and turning out enough high grade matte to pay all expenses and leave a comfortable margin for dividends. The smelter only runs during the summer months, the winter being devoted to developing and hauling out ore. Just think of hauling supplies 120 miles over a mountain road and hauling out matte on the return trip. That is eating up the profits of a mine pretty fast."

Many Mines Ready to Ship.

Continuing, Mr. Sweet said that at least a hundred properties in and around Custer and the Loon Creek region would be ready to ship and paying basis as soon as a railroad was built into that country. The matter will be the subject of the strongest light to the Short Line and a concerted effort will be made to prevail upon the owners of that system to extend the Mackay branch on into the rich mining camps of the upper country.

Mr. Sweet said there is a lead belt in the Stanley basin district which will develop into something mighty good in a few years. All that it needs is a little capital and cheap transportation.

NEVADA UNITED MINE
ROLLING OUT THE ORE

Eight four-horse teams are engaged in hauling ore from the Nevada United mines at Ward to Ely for shipment to the Salt Lake smelters, says the Ely Exporter. The ore comes from the strike made about five weeks ago on the 180-foot level in the new shaft, which the company has been sinking for some months, and is high grade lead, carrying good silver values.

On the 280-foot level that is being run to catch the same ore body at greater depth another strike was made last Thursday which carries better silver values than the ore from the level above, two assays made from samples giving returns of over 90 ounces to the ton. The breaking down of the assay furnace last week has prevented a thorough testing of the value of the ore body and the amount of work that has been done in it is not sufficient to accurately determine the size of it, but a force of men has been kept on to open it up and thoroughly explore it.

The company has for some time been giving the employees the option of taking part of their pay in stock and such has been the faith of the miners that many of them have taken advantage of the opportunity to acquire an interest in the property. In the last few days some of the men who had large blocks of the shares have been disposing of part of their holdings at from 15 to 20 cents a share, but the reports in circulation have caused the price to advance and much of it has been withdrawn from the market, as the holders look for higher prices if the last strike proves to amount to anything more than a kidney of the high grade ore.

Aside from the rich ore pockets which are likely to be encountered in any formation, the Ward property has enough low grade ore blocked out to make it a big mine when transportation facilities

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are provided to handle it, and if the ore is shot from which shipments are now being made holds out for any distance the amount of production from it will be considerable and will tide the company over until the wagon haul can be eliminated. The working force at the mines numbers about twenty-five besides the teamsters engaged in hauling the ore to Ely. The eight fours on the road pull a wagon and trailer each and bring in more than a carload every trip and make the round trip in two days.

MONTANA'S COKE OUTPUT
FOR THE YEAR 1907

The production of coke in Montana in 1907 amounted to 40,174 short tons, valued at \$250,174, according to E. W. Parker, chief statistician of the United States geological survey. Compared with the production of 1906, which amounted to 38,182 short tons, valued at \$246,024, this is an increase of 2,000 tons, or approximately 5.2 per cent, in quantity, and of \$4,150, or more than 10 per cent, in value. The average price per ton advanced from \$6.37 in 1906 to \$7.25 in 1907. One new establishment was added to the coke manufacturing plants of the state in 1907, increasing the number from four to five. The new establishment was not, however, entirely completed before the close of the year and reported no production, and of the other plants, with a total of 10 ovens, were also idle throughout the year.

The statistics collected by Mr. Parker show a considerable advance in the percentage yield of coke in this state during 1906 and 1907—53.3 per cent in the earlier and 59 per cent in the latter year, while the yield in 1905—45.8 per cent—was low as compared with that of the two years preceding—54.4 and 53 per cent, respectively. The low percentage in 1905 was probably due to the fact that in that year the weight of the coal used was given before washing, while in other years the weight of the washed coal has been reported. The higher yield in 1907 as compared with 1906 indicates a better separation of the impurities by washing. Less coal was used in 1907 than in 1906 (68,948 short tons as compared with 73,303 tons), while the production of coke was greater. All of the coal used for coke making in Montana is run of mine, and nearly all of it is washed before charging into the ovens.

Mr. Parker's coke report is now in course of publication as an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1907." It will be ready for distribution in a few weeks, when copies may be obtained by applying to the director of the United States geological survey, Washington, D. C.

BRIGHAM CITY EXPERT
PRAISES POCHE MARBLE

John H. Bott of the firm of Bott & Sons, who have an immense plant at Brigham City, Utah, spent several days here this week inspecting the immense marble deposit at the Poché Record. This property is incorporated by local people of Poché, and the general report of Mr. Bott on the quality of their product has been the means of the owners to at once begin preparations toward extracting the marble and granite for local markets.

Mr. Bott is an old and experienced man in the stone business, and he declares, after making the most thorough test of the marble, that it is superior to any Vermont or Georgia production; it is free from any spar or other matter in a few weeks, when action may be obtained by applying to the director of the United States geological survey, Washington, D. C.

SHIPPING ORE FROM
MINES AROUND HAMILTON

Louis Lant and partner, leasing on the Great Valley mine at Hamilton, have made two shipments recently to the smelter by the way of Eureka of high grade lead-silver ore and expect to send shipments regularly, says the Ely Exporter.

The Great Valley mine lies south of the famous Eureka-Henderson district, a belt of white lime. The ore is a crystallized carbonate of lead and averages about 20 per cent lead with very little silver extraction and occurs in such deposits that it is mined without getting any waste in with it.

Other Hamilton properties are reported to be looking fine and with an increase in the quotation for the metal, the shipments from the camp would be heavy.

Louis Fraser of Ely, who has been with the Nevada United mine there, is expected in Ely this week.

CONDITIONS AT
SOUTHERN SWANSEA

Ernest Higginson, who has charge of the work at the Southern Swansea property, says that the shaft recently started until the shaft reaches a depth of 150 or 200 feet, says the Eureka Reporter. The company intend to descend on the 150 level, but when that point was reached the showing was so encouraging that the management decided to go deeper. A stringer of ore which was cut in the shaft showed values of nineteen ounces silver, \$3.50 in gold and about 2 per cent lead.

In the Southern Swansea there are small deposits of cube galena in the porphyry and those who are familiar with that section of the district are of the opinion that the ground will become productive of good ore if development work is carried on at proper depth.

Production of Gold and Silver
in California in the Year 1907
BY CHARLES G. YALE.

The following statement shows the production, by counties, of gold and silver in California in 1907, as reported from the mines to the United States geological survey. This has been prepared to meet a repeated demand and is presented in advance of the annual report on California forming a portion of the gold and silver section of "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1907," now in press.

County.	-Gold-		-Silver-	
	Fine oza.	Value.	Fine oza.	Value.
Alameda	1,182.31	\$2,148,181	20.47	\$1,328,897
Butte	134,813.39	3,786,849	12,887	1,785,862
Calaveras	53,114.49	1,097,374	82,654	54,429
Colusa	156.51	724	12	8
Del Norte	42.47	319,177	3,486	2,301
El Dorado	15,440.19	2,401,725	21	2,427
Fresno	1,940.27	40,109	325	216
Imperial	2,709.03	57,241	67,333	44,440
Kern	42,311.35	878,738	130,253	88,033
Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura.	18,424.48	11,214	11,068	7,280
Madera	643.53	13,303	767	506
Mariposa	19,615.36	405,498	6,288	4,159
Merced	269.58	5,452	28	30
Monterey	52.05	1,076	14	1,085
Mono	15,574.69	383,971	45,147	413,758
Nevada	104,368.56	2,182,083	28,223	17,028
Placer	23,354.10	482,772	5,088	3,358
Pumas	10,611.30	219,355	1,496	918
Riverside	183.57	4,830	25	25
Sacramento	38,263.32	788,672	3,082	793,007
San Bernardino	1,675.85	158,676	12,241	81,283
San Diego	269.58	7,453	32	7,490
San Luis Obispo	15.29	316	—	—
Shasta	28,285.55	791,997	569,926	370,211
Sierra	22,405.86	432,943	3,971	48,225
Siskiyou	19,254.07	398,017	4,692	401,654
Stanislaus	162.73	3,394	42	3,392
Tulare	25,361.91	525,318	2,890	527,715
Tuolumne	39,032.63	806,876	9,778	813,239
Yuba	88,467.51	1,766,779	9,374	1,772,957
Total	869,212.32	\$16,727,928	1,138,538	\$751,648

PROTECTION TO
COAL MINERS

Union Congressman Investigates Methods in Belgium and Wales.

Representative Albert Douglas of Ohio stopped over in Washington the other day en route to his home in Chillicothe from a two months' trip to Europe. While abroad he made it a point to inspect some of the biggest coal mines in Wales and Belgium, and found that their methods of operation and the means taken to protect the miners were far superior to those in vogue in the United States.

The public inspectors of mines in Belgium and Wales accompanied Mr. Douglas into the mines there and explained fully their respective systems of operation.

"We can learn a great deal from these countries," he said, "especially concerning the prevention of accidents and of waste. Their regulations with respect to the working of mines are much more stringent than in the United States, and certain not only to the action of the miners while at work, but also to the operators' methods. The use of gunpowder or any other explosive is prohibited, and this alone is a great preventative of accidents."

"The miners are required by explicit rules to look after their own security, as well as the general security of the mine. In Belgium they are the more advanced in protecting the lives of the miners, and have a regular life-saving service, which accomplishes admirable results."

"The life-savers are equipped with devices enabling them to remain in fire damp for one to two hours, where ordinarily a man would succumb in a few minutes."

"Under the administration of Victor Watteyne, the chief inspector of mines, the death rate from accidents has been reduced from four one thousandths to about one-half in one thousand. The mining methods are much more provident than those in the United States. It has been estimated between 20 and 30 per cent of the coal is wasted in various ways, while there the loss is less than 10 per cent."

Victor Watteyne is now in the United States to furnish information to the geological survey in its investigation of mine disasters and means of prevention. He is considered the expert on the subject in his line in Europe. Mr. Douglas hopes to have him visit the Hooking Valley region and meet George H. Chisholm, chief of the mine inspectors. The data collected by the representative will be utilized practically when the effort to pass through mine bureau bill is renewed next winter.

NORTH CLIFF WAITING
FOR SMELTER CONTRACT

Preparations are now under way for the resumption of work at the property of the North Cliff mining company, says the Eureka Reporter. In this country it has been estimated between 20 and 30 per cent of the coal is wasted in various ways, while there the loss is less than 10 per cent."

Frank Thornberg, the president and manager of the company, states that the mine is now ready to start work, and that the ore which is being mined is of a high grade and is a nice profit. When everything is taken into consideration the North Cliff is one of the best properties in the south end of the district and should be a winner right from the start.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES
TO SILVER'S WEAKNESS

Silver at 51 cents is fast approaching the lowest price in its history. The same 47.5 cents in January, 1908, says the Boston News Bureau. From that price there was a gradual enhancement in values to the high point of 79.3 cents in November, 1906, when dollar silver was the expectation of all the leading metal interests.

The present low price is due to a variety of causes, the principal one being the demand in the domestic market for east, which is the greatest consumer of the white metal. This lack of Oriental demand has been a general depression in the market for silver, which has resulted in a reduced demand for both gold and silver.

The decline in silver shipments from London to the far east this year has been a factor. The business depression in the United States has restricted the demand for the arts and the United States government has made no purchases since last April.

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EARLY DAY PROSPECTOR
TELLS OF CHAFEE CAMP

The early history of the rich mining region known now as Chafee camp, in this county, appears in the light of a bonanza from its earliest discovery, says the Winnemucca Silver State News. According to S. H. Young of Carson City, Idaho, who passed through Winnemucca a few days ago en route to Chafee with the intention of looking over the scene of the present excitement there, Dun Glen canyon contained a regiment of soldiers in 1852 as well as a large population.

"I spent four months in the mines on the south side of the canyon in 1852," explained Mr. Young. "At that time the owners, Eddie Brothers & Higley, were taking much ore out of the Monroe mine which was worth \$800 per ton. It was loaded to Winnemucca, where owners of a crude stamp mill were charging \$25 a ton for crushing. It was common report also that the mill men were stealing half the gold. From one seam in the workings of the Monroe ore was extracted which was almost half gold. I have wondered that this district did not come to the front during all the years since I have been away."

"There was not much of the town of Winnemucca in those days. I came here in 1851 and owned a ranch about seven miles down the river from which I cut hay and sold it to the government; afterward I drifted around the country and eventually into Idaho. Since hearing of the discoveries in old Dun Glen canyon I concluded to come out and take a look over the ground again which was active when I was but 22 years of age. In many respects this country is about as it was then. The railroad had not arrived when I was here before, and all our letters were sent by stage. I have consumed half of the haul from California."

"I had a ranch in the O's Spring canyon, in Grass valley, which the Indians burned. A crowd of the settlers got together and we followed the band over the mountains to the place where Battle Mountain is now located. We attacked them at daylight in the morning and twenty dead Redskins among the willows, to say nothing of those who were wounded and who were carried away by the retreating tribe."

DEVELOPMENT WORK
AT THE NEVADA-BRITISH

The Nevada British Mining company of Carson City, Nevada, is now working on the new shaft that is being sunk for the purpose of catching the rich Star vein, which the company has been working on since the British company, having been worked up to the line in the Star, says the Ely Exporter.

The vein which is being followed at an incline dipped out of the shaft at 72 feet from the surface and came in again at 250 feet, the shaft having been sunk at the same angle at which it was started. A drift was run 70 feet at the 250 level, from which a crosscut of 50 feet was run to prospect the ground. The shaft was then continued down and as usual the drift was run 120 feet higher than the level of the Star, and the company expects to open up good ore at 60 feet from the surface that will put it on a paying basis at once.

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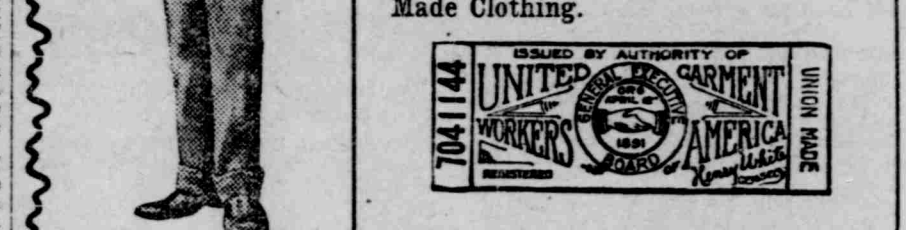
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